

**METHOD FOR USER-SPECIFIED ERROR CORRECTION IN AN INSTANT  
MESSAGING SYSTEM**

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**ABSTRACT**

10 A method and system enter a correction for a previously sent message,  
determine whether to send a complete corrected message or a message correction  
specification, and send the selected message to a messaging server. The  
messaging server receives the message correction specification and a message  
15 identifier (ID), and sends the message correction specification and the message ID  
to a recipient client system if a message with a corresponding message ID has  
previously been sent to the recipient client system. Then, the recipient client system  
receives the message correction specification and message ID, retrieves the  
message with a corresponding message ID from its conversation log, corrects the  
message, updates the conversation log, and activates an alert to notify a user of an  
update. If the message has not previously been sent, the messaging server  
corrects the message and sends the corrected message and the message ID to the  
recipient client system.

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